News release

Celebrating the 'father of the weather forecast'

5 July 2005

The 200th anniversary of the birth of the Met Office's founding father, Admiral Robert FitzRoy, is being celebrated today with a special memorial.

In 1854 FitzRoy was chosen to head up a new, experimental department within the Board of Trade - that department was the meteorological department, the forerunner to the Met Office. Through determination and innovation FitzRoy changed the face of meteorology - pioneering printed weather forecasts, inventing a barometer and playing a pivotal role in the development of storm warnings.

At 4 p.m. today, at the Church of All Saints with St Margaret, Church Road, Upper Norwood, south London, there will be a gathering around the grave of Admiral FitzRoy to honour his memory on the bicentenary of his birth.

The event is part of SeaBritain 2005, a year-long celebration of the sea led by the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

For more information on the memorial contact SeaBritain 2005 on 020 8312 6766.

More information on Admiral FitzRoy

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